

TO: Joint Steering Committee for Revision of AACR
FROM: Deirdre Kiorgaard, ACOC representative to JSC
SUBJECT: Designation of roles in RDA

ACOC thanks LC for preparing this paper on behalf of the JSC.

LC has asked constituents if the breadth and depth of the roles in the list are adequately covered.

ACOC believes that the breadth of the role terms is sufficient. However, we are concerned about the lack of specificity in some cases of the role terms recorded in conjunction with access points at the work level.

ACOC recognises that the Editor has recommended that different role designations should be recorded if a given role is appropriate to more than one element. However, this has resulted in a loss of specificity at the work level. For example, if an artist is responsible for the creation of an artistic work, the role term “artist” is the only one that can be recorded. If the resource were a print or an etching, the terms “printmaker” and “etcher” would be far more appropriate and useful. However, these terms can only be assigned in conjunction with the access point for the producer of a manifestation.

ACOC would appreciate a more detailed explanation of why different designations must be made to satisfy RDF specifications and the DCMI Abstract Model.

ACOC would like the second and later sentences in the instructions under X.2.1 to be clarified. These state that a role term appropriate to the creator element can be used if the contribution is described in isolation, rather than complementing another work. This could be read as contradicting the requirement to record different role designations at each level. It needs to be made clearer that the access point has therefore been assigned at the work level. Perhaps it would be better to give only the first sentence of that instruction in this list, leaving any explanations to be given in the instructions.

Similarly, it may be better not to word the introductory sentences as instructions, instead say for example: “X.X.1 Appropriate terms from the list below are recorded in conjunction with the preferred access point or identifier for a creator of a work, following the instructions at [add ref].”

ACOC is also uncertain whether it is appropriate to provide references from a term given at one FRBR level to a term given at another FRBR level, e.g. the reference in X.1.1 Speaker to the terms Storyteller, Narrator and Performer in X.2.1. We understand why this has been done, i.e. to guide cataloguers to the appropriate term. However, the cataloguer needs to be clear whether they are working with roles in relation to the work, the expression, the manifestation or the item, and they cannot follow those references and use a more specific term from another list.